

**Question for written answer E-009613/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Viorica Dăncilă (S&D)**

Subject: SMEs in agriculture

It is estimated that the world's population could reach between 8.5 and 10 billion by 2050. As a consequence, food production will be the greatest challenge facing humanity in the coming decades.

Farmers will have the task of producing not just food but also raw materials for energy production.

The true potential offered by farming in the EU Member States must be reaped to the full, and small and medium-sized enterprises could play a significant role in this area, offering new services while taking account of the challenges linked to sustainable development (economic, social, ecological and territorial governance aspects), as well as new rules on quality control, landscaping, services, and marketing to promote local products in rural areas.

How will the Commission encourage the development of SMEs in rural areas, in particular with a view to developing new services, geared not only to agricultural production but also to compliance with new rules on quality control, landscaping, services, and marketing to promote local products in rural areas, as well as rapidly evolving research and development?